Policy with regard to closure of Coal Mines

†2785. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new policy with regard to the closure of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coal mines have to give guarantee to Government that they themselves would bear the expenditure related to the closure of mines;

(d) if so, the purpose behind giving emphasis on such financial guarantees;

(e) the nature of financial guarantees sought from various mines; and

(f) the details of the policy for ensuring protection of environment?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir. No new policy has been initiated regarding closure of coal mines. Closing the mining activities in coalmines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety mine etc., operational decisions are taken by coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) of the question above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) of the question above.

(f) When any coal mine is conceived and approved, adequate funding for all activities including environmentally acceptable working and closing of the mining activities are duly factored in at the project formulations stage itself.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.